With increasing global brand recognition for our endless summers, The Palm Beaches attract a variety of international productions seeking sparkling waters and sunny skies. Japanese productions in particular have had a growing presence in the region, highlighting everything from our picturesque piers to bustling city centers.

Zazou Productions recently filmed an episode of World Summer Resort, a tourism series that airs weekly on Tokyo Broadcasting System, to an average of 5.4 million viewers per episode. From Clematis Street and CityPlace in West Palm Beach, to Pineapple Grove in Delray Beach, to Phil Foster Park in Riviera Beach, the Zazou team interviewed municipal representatives in each region to get travel advice from those who know best. Meanwhile, popular Japanese variety show Ariyoshi Zemi filmed at the Lake Worth Pier and West Palm Beach Flagler Drive waterfront for an upcoming episode featuring the notoriously zany antics of the playful series. Host stand-ups on both the beach and Intracoastal showed off some of PBC’s best waterfront assets.

When an ideal cultural backdrop was needed for South Florida-based Japanese art and tattoo specialist Chris Garver, Fat Cat 305 Films captured the essence at Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens. The production was livestreamed on Facebook to tattoo enthusiasts all over the globe.

The Palm Beaches continue to welcome a variety of worldwide productions with a focus on excellent customer service, free one-stop permitting and diverse locations spanning the largest county in Florida. See more about our services by visiting us online at pbfilm.com.
GUMBO LIMBO ON SWEDISH TV

As a world renowned environmental complex, Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton is no stranger to film productions. Production companies hoping to get a glimpse of sea turtle research and conservation need look no further. South Florida contains a massive number of sea turtle nests, and everyone wants in on a bit of the action during sea turtle nesting season, which runs from March 1 through October 31 every year. One recent guest to Gumbo Limbo was Tomas Blideman of Swedish national television. Blideman visited Gumbo Limbo Nature Center to film material for Lilla Aktuell, Sweden’s only news program for kids that has been airing since 1993. Now, the whole world can experience the magic of Gumbo Limbo and the variety of educational programs they offer. For more about Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, visit gumbolimbo.org.

AFRICAN AMERICAN FILM FEST

The Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach is set to host the 13th season of the African-American Film Festival during select Mondays throughout February at 7pm. The month-long film series provides a platform for the public to watch films about the African-American experience. The event was founded by James Drayton, with community support from the Kappa Upsilon chapter of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

This year’s films include: Sounder, February 5; The Wiz, February 12; and To Sir, With Love, February 26. AnEta Sewell, a speech communications professor at Palm Beach State College and former local newscaster, will lead a discussion before each film and host a Q&A session afterward. See a full schedule and purchase tickets at kravis.org.

TART BOWL, SWEET RATINGS

More than 1.3 million households had their eyes set on The Palm Beaches on December 19 as the Florida Atlantic Owls hosted the Akron Zips in the 2017 Cheribundi Tart Cherry Boca Raton Bowl. The fourth annual Boca Raton Bowl aired on ESPN and was a top 10 telecast on cable that evening. Moreover, it was the number one sports program of the night and received higher ratings than any other pre-Christmas bowl game on cable. In addition to the nationally televised game, college football fans had several opportunities to watch Florida Atlantic University’s (FAU) high-powered offense dominate their opponent as the bowl game re-aired three times. Doug Mosley, Executive Director of the Boca Raton Bowl, says “that means Boca Raton and Palm Beach County received great exposure.” The Boca Raton Bowl, FAU’s fourth nationally televised game this year, was also streamed globally. To catch more info on this event, rush over to thebocaratonbowl.com.

CREATIVITY FUSES IN WEST PALM

From January 23-27, hundreds of professional and hobbyist photographers descend upon West Palm Beach for the 23rd Annual FOTOfusion. Presented by the Palm Beach Photographic Centre, this festival unites some of best known photographers and instructors from around the country who come to teach workshops “where creativity and technology fuse.” The festival includes lectures, panel discussions, workshops, multimedia presentations, portfolio reviews, hands-on computer classes, demonstrations, photoshoots and much more! Awards will be presented to legendary photographer Howard Schatz, whose iconic advertising images and celebrity portraits have been exhibited in museums and photography galleries internationally and are included in innumerable private collections. See more at fotofusion.org.

BAHAMAS SETS SAIL IN PALM BEACH

Bahamas-based production company Keen i Media graced our shores to film a new international commercial for Bahamas Ferries. The shipping and travel line sought to advertise itself as “a comfortable, convenient and affordable way to ship items from the U.S to the Bahamas.” The commercial features beautiful aerial footage of their vessel on the crystal blue waters of the film-friendly Port of Palm Beach, and can be seen on local TV channels throughout the Bahamas. “We had the absolutely best experience shooting at the Port of Palm Beach. The ease of getting the shots we needed and the help we received from the staff at the Port was great,” said Client Services Manager Kenton Pinder. Keen i Media is a full-service advertising agency, public relations, media design, marketing and production company with clients all over the Bahamas, North America, the U.K. and Europe. Learn more at keenimedia.com.
**TURTLE CONSERVATION PROMO**

The coastal waters of The Palm Beaches offer some of the best aquatic life in the world. In a new promo video, conservationist and wildlife videographer Jim Abernethy explores an area he has named **Turtle Town**. Right off the Jupiter Inlet, near Dubois Park, this natural experience offers a glance at turtles that can be spotted in just a few feet of water. It’s a rare opportunity to explore nature like this, but Abernethy explains, “The turtle is dependent on turtle grass and we want to make sure we don’t step on it, anchor or drive over it, or interfere with their feeding on this fragile ecosystem.” So grab a paddleboard or kayak and enjoy the experience of turtles swimming all around you as one of the many unique underwater delights of The Palm Beaches. More information is available at scuba-adventures.com.

**A SUNNY HOLIDAY FOR THE MEDIA**

The “Winter White House” graced the national spotlight once again as **President Trump** and his family celebrated the holidays in style at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, bringing a barrage of media along with them. Starting with Thanksgiving and extending through two weeks over Christmas and the New Year, the national press pool (including CNN, ABC News, Fox News, and others) returned to their choice stand-up location within Howard Park along Okeechobee Boulevard in West Palm Beach, where they can conveniently park their satellite trucks and office trailers overnight.

Meanwhile, popular morning programs like MSNBC’s Morning Joe and NBC’s Today Show made Meyer Amphitheater a temporary home during their visit to The Palm Beaches, showcasing a dual backdrop along Flagler Drive with the glittering Intracoastal waterway and the downtown skyline. The picturesque views offer what may be considered “free marketing” for an ideal sunny destination amidst winter snowstorms.

**G-STAR BUILDS A DREAM FACTORY**

G-Star Studios and G-Star School of Arts constructed one of the largest sets ever built in Palm Beach County for a new TV mini-series, **Dream Factory**. The five-part fantasy is centered around a place where dreams are manufactured for human beings at birth. If a dream goes unused, it’s returned to the factory and placed in storage.

When someone dies they must see their wasted dreams before they go to their resting place. “Our students have built the interior of an entire house in Sound Stage One. It’s 100’ long, 10’ high with upstairs bedrooms,” says Greg Hauptner, Founder/CEO. “[They] also constructed an entire forest with a ‘witches hut’ for a nightmare-type dream sequence.” But the dreams don’t end with the show! During the **Dream Factory** shoot in January, show producer Kimberly Eastwood (daughter of Clint) will hold special seminars for G-Star students and work with them on set. To live the dream, visit gstarstudios.com.

**DIVERSITY ON DISPLAY AT PBJFF**

When the 28th Annual Donald M. Ephraim Palm Beach Jewish Film Festival kicks off on January 18, filmgoers will find a wide range of films from topics like the cultural collaboration behind the jazz classic, **Body and Soul: An American Bridge**, to **G.I. Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II**, the compelling documentary detailing the service of half a million Jewish Americans in World War II, to the Jewish influence on Iraqi music in **On the Banks of the Tigris: The Hidden Story of Iraqi Music**. Other features will celebrate artists like Itzhak Perlman, Sammy Davis, Jr. and Hedy Lamarr. More screening locations are available this year. “We’ve added theaters to offer residents and tourists a better choice and more convenience when choosing films to see,” says Festival Director Ellen Wedner. The 2018 festival takes place January 18 through February 11. See more at pbfjff.org.

**DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED FOR NEW DOC**

Local award-winning independent filmmaker Rick Pamplin has been announced as writer-director of a new feature length documentary inspired by Palm Beach resident Louise Levison’s best-selling book **Filmmakers & Financing: Business Plans for Independents**. Pamplin says, “We are making a bold, truthful movie, which will reveal as many secrets as possible.” He plans to interview multiple Palm Beach residents on camera and utilize locations throughout the County. Pamplin’s storied career spans 18 years in Hollywood and 14 years at Universal Studios in Florida before he relocated to Palm Beach. He has written and directed several award-winning films including **Hoover**, starring Academy Award-winning actor Ernest Borgnine. Producers on the new film include Scott duPont, formerly a Jupiter Island resident turned Hollywood-based movie producer, and Palm Beach artist and production designer Maggie Phipps Pamplin. The executive producer is P.J. Marks. Follow updates on the production via Twitter at #ConfidentialFilmProject.
LOCATION SPOTLIGHT:
HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

We never tire of hearing that lush tropical backdrops are needed for catalogs and photo shoots. PBC has lots of amazing backdrops for photographers and production designers that need the right setting for resort wear, swimsuits, bridal gowns and casual wear.

Situated next to Palm Beach International Airport, Mounts Botanical Garden covers 14 acres of tropical plant materials, complete with a stylized bridge, 23 different gardens, a tropical forest, and a fantastic gazebo and that’s just on the outside! The property also offers interior classrooms, test kitchens, a nice meeting room as well as a rare buff brick midcentury modern building that faces Military Trail.

When visiting the Lake Worth Casino, you could actually overlook the Casino Ballroom on the second floor. The room is light and bright with windows facing the east and west. The balconies provide great camera positions to catch the action on the lush lawn area directly behind the casino facing west where a sunset view from the Intracoastal Terrace that overlooks the grassy courtyard is ready to host your scene. With ocean views on the east side, there are plenty of production opportunities at the Lake Worth Casino Building & Beach Complex.

Anywhere, USA with vintage charm is a frequent request, and it can be found in Northwood Village on the north end of West Palm Beach. The “main street” has grown into a trendy location and offers a ton of charm with a mix of brick, streamline modern and brightly-colored stucco buildings. The oak trees provide a nice canopy of shade and dappled light that makes for a natural filter for photography. For more information about these locations and others that welcome commercial production, please visit pbfilm.com.

EDUCATION CORNER:
SSOF DEADLINE APPROACHES

January is post-production time for Florida students! The deadline for the 23rd Student Showcase of Films is approaching. Over $12,500 in cash, prizes and scholarships are in play, so submit your project by January 24 for a chance to win. New in 2018, the Suzanne Niedland Documentary Scholarship will be awarded to a winning documentary filmmaker. Created to honor Suzanne Niedland—a champion of student filmmakers and Florida’s production industry—the newest category is open to college and high school students across the state.

Overall, there are 13 categories up for grabs, including the Burt Reynolds and Sara Fuller Scholarships presented to Palm Beach County high school seniors. Categories for submission include: Public Service Announcements for Environmental and Mental Health Awareness, Animation, High School and College Feature Shorts.

To learn more about these and other categories for submission, please visit online at pbfilm.com/student-showcase.

NEW MAYOR APPOINTMENT

The Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission warmly congratulates Melissa McKinlay on her appointment as Mayor of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners. Mayor McKinlay has spent over 20 years advocating on behalf of women, children and families through her professional and governmental roles. As the County Commissioner for District 6, McKinlay’s region has welcomed several commercial productions, including multiple award-winning documentaries in Pahokee as well as episodes of South Florida PBS’ On The Town in The Palm Beaches in both Wellington and The Glades. Her dedication to the County is evident through civil service and by providing opportunities for her constituents to succeed. Learn more about Melissa at discover.pbgov.com.

Co-Editors: Phyllis Man & Christy Andreoni, Assistant Editor: Kelly King, Contributors: Chris Cobb, Alberto Jordat, Ian Saylor, Hilary Webber & Lauren Tobin

To be included in this newsletter please email candreoni@pbfilm.com or call 561.233.1000

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